

the country by members of Congress. Nowhere else does Jefferson arraign with more force the policy of his opponents. "If the understanding of the people could be rallied to the truth of the subject (the X. Y. Z. affair) by exposing the dupery\* practiced on them, there are so many other things about to bear on them, favorably for the resurrection of their Republican spirit, that a reduction of the administration to constitutional principles cannot fail to be the effect. These are the Alien and Sedition Laws; the vexations of the Stamp Act; the disgusting particularities of the direct tax; the additional army without an enemy, and recruiting officers lounging at every courthouse to decoy the laborer from his plow; a navy of fifty ships; five millions to be raised to build it on the usurious interest of eight per cent; the perseverance in war on our part when the French Government shows such an anxious desire to keep at peace with us; taxes of ten millions now paid by four millions of people, and yet a necessity in a year or two of raising five millions more for annual expenses."

A month later he wrote to Madison upon the most practical methods of influencing the political opinion of the country. "A piece published in Bache's paper on foreign influence has had the greatest currency and effect. \* \*

\* It is such things as these the public want. They say so from all quarters, and that they wish to hear reason instead of disgusting blackguardism. The public sentiment being on the career and many heavy circumstances about to fall into the Republican scale, we are sensible that this summer is the season for systematic energies and sacrifices. The engine is the press. Every man must lay his purse and his pen under contribution. As to the former, it is possible I may be obliged to assume something for you. As to the latter, let me pray and beseech you to set apart a certain portion of every post-day to write what may be proper for the public."

After the adjournment of Congress, the relations between President Adams and his Cabinet became more strained than ever. His suspension of war preparations was recognized as a virtual guarantee of peace, and he was now for sending definite